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USSR - Eastern Europe - Communist China: The USSR seems to be placing increased stress on spelling out the "internationalist" responsibility of its European allies to support it in other areas, including its dispute with China.

The Soviet Defense Ministry journal Red Star on 14 May ran a front-page editorial that insisted that Peking's "violent anti-Soviet campaign" contributes to the threat from imperialism, and called for increased preparedness on the part of Soviet soldiers and their "comrades in arms in fraternal countries." The Red Star editorial is the most recent of a series of articles playing up the alleged determination of Warsaw Pact states to rebuff aggression "anywhere," a tenet implicitly incorporated into the Soviet-Czechoslovak treaty signed and publicized last week. There is similar language in treaties signed with Hungary and Bulgaria in 1967.

Rumors are going around in Prague that Czechoslovak Army units are to be transferred to the Soviet Far East. [REDACTED]

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25X1 There is no available evidence to corroborate these rumors [REDACTED] but it would be difficult to detect a token presence of Czechoslovak military in the Far East. It may be noteworthy that President Svoboda made a two-day stopover in Irkutsk before a visit to Mongolia in late March. There is nothing to suggest, however, that his stay involved anything more than normal protocol activities.

There were earlier rumors that military detachments from some of Moscow's East European allies were sent off to the Far East in the wake of last year's clashes along the Sino-Soviet frontier. [REDACTED]

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Moscow might see some advantage in establishing--and perhaps later publicizing--a token East

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European presence in the border area. This could serve as an ostensible mark of wide support for the USSR in the face of Chinese "provocation," and as a means of driving home Moscow's view regarding the responsibility of its allies to defend against a threat from any enemy.

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